Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-13 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 EB-07 COME-00 FAA-00 DOTE-00 SAJ-01 /096 W

-----210907Z 124904 /22

R 210845Z JAN 77 FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8471 INFO AMCONGEN HONG KONG AMEMBASSY PARIS AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE CINCPAC HONOLULU

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAIR, LA, TH, VN SUBJECT: INDOCHINA OVERFLIGHTS

REF: BANGKOK 1130

- 1. KNOWLEDGEABLE MFA OFFICIAL TOLD AUSTRALIAN EMBOFF JAN 20 THAT PDRL HAS STILL NOT REPLIED TO THAI REQUEST THAT DISCUSSION OF OVERFLIGHTS OF LAOS (AND RESUMTPION OF LAO COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS TO THAILAND) TAKE PLACE IN VIENTIANE AT THE END OF THE MONTH. OFFICIAL ADDED THAT RTG HAS NOW REVISED ANTICIPATED VIENTIANE MEETING DATE TO EARLY FEBRUARY, WITH SEPARATE VISIT TO HANOI FOR DISCUSSION OF OVERFLIGHTS OF VIET-NAM TO OCCUR SOME TIME THEREAFTER.
- 2. MILITARY OFFICIALS HAVE INDICATED TO DATT RECENTLY SOME IMPATIENCE WITH VIENTIANE'S LACK OF RESPONSIVENESS ON THE MEETING DATE AND ARE CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF CONFIDENTIAL.

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APPROACHING HANOI DIRECTLY TO SUGGEST THAT THE FIRST MEETING ON OVERFLIGHTS BE HELD BETWEEN THE THAI AND VIETNAMESE RATHER THAN THE THAI AND LAO, REASONING THAT ONCE AGREEMENT IS REACHED WITH HANOI, VIENTIANE WOULD FALL INTO LINE WITH BARELY A WHIMPER. SUCH A MOVE COULD BREAK THE CURRENT IMPASSE IN THAI-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS AND OPEN THE DOOR TO DISCUSSION OF OTHER ISSUES, PARTICULARLY

THE EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES. PRESUMABLY, THE MFA OFFICIAL'S COMMENTS INDICATE THAT THE RTG HAS NOT YET DECIDED TO MAKE SUCH A CHANGE IN TACTICS. WHITEHOUSE

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